

Getting Started with the IPEDS Data

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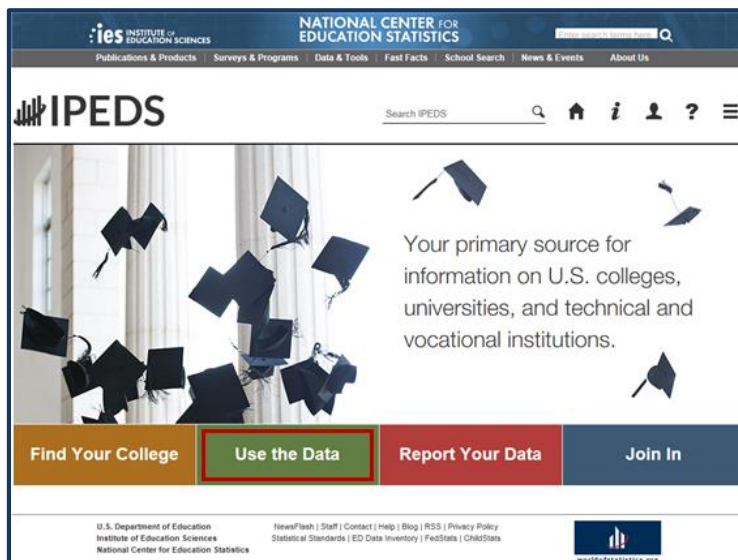
Module Objectives

- Describe the options for using [IPEDS](#) data
 - Viewing institutional data
 - Generating reports
 - Downloading data files
- Describe processes for accessing IPEDS data
- Describe the structure of IPEDS data files
- Explain how to choose variables for analysis

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Accessing IPEDS Data from the [IPEDS Website](#)



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Collection Year vs. Data Year

- Collection Year: Year in which the data are collected by NCES during the fall, winter, and spring data collection cycle
- Data Year: Year the data represent, which may be prior to the collection year
- For example, 12-month enrollment collected in the fall during the 2014-15 data collection is for the prior 12-month period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014
 - Collection Year 2014 = Data Year 2013-14

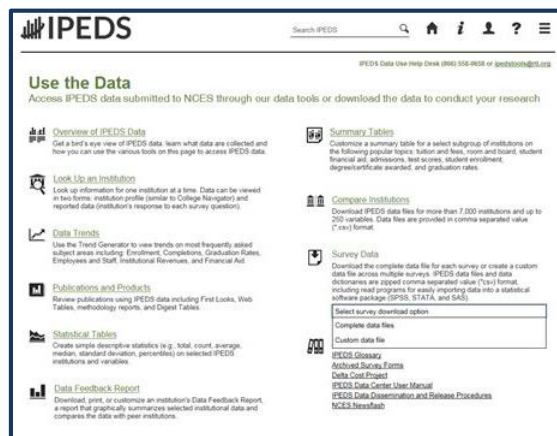


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Options for Accessing IPEDS Data

- Look up an institution: View profiles and data reported for a single institution
- Compare institutions: Download single merged data file for a group of institutions including up to 250 variables
- Statistical tables: Create simple descriptive statistics (e.g., total, count, average, median, standard deviation, percentiles) on selected IPEDS institutions and variables
- Survey data (complete or custom files):
 - Each component has multiple files; in many cases you'll need to be able to merge the files together
 - IPEDS UnitID is common across files and can be used for merging
 - Always download the Institutional Characteristics Header file because it includes basic directory information
 - Each download includes a Read Files for SPSS, SAS, and STATA
- Data feedback report: Create reports with pre-determined tables and comparison groups for institutions



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Helpful Shortcuts in IPEDS

- Save session – allows you to save all institutions and variables you have selected
- Download and save a group of institutions (.uid file)*
- Download and save a list of variables (.mvl file)*

* You can then upload these back into the system, but you must provide an email address and password to become an IPEDS 'Power User'

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Select Institutions By Group

- Several methods are available for creating a system-generated Institution Group

Look up an institution Provisional Release Data [\(Change\)](#)

1. Select Institutions

My Comparison Institution - None Selected ADD

How would you like to select institutions to include in your data file/report?

Enter either an institution name or UnitID (or a comma separated list of UnitIDs) in the text box below. As you begin typing, a list of matching institutions will appear. You can select a single institution by clicking on it from the list, or, if you want all institutions on the list, click "Select".

- Additional information about options for using data from the IPEDS website is available in the [IPEDS data manual](#)

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Using EZ Groups

Uses common variables to define institution groups

Data Collection: 2013 [\[change year\]](#)

0 institution(s) Clear Search

Select

☐ First Look Universe !
☐ Title IV participating !
☐ U.S. only
 ☐ All institutions

Special missions (if any)

☒ Historically Black College or University
 ☐ Tribal College
 ☐ Land Grant Institution

Special characteristics

- ☐ State or other jurisdiction
- ☐ Geographical region
- ☒ Sector
- ☐ Degree-granting status
- ☐ Highest degree offered
- ☐ Institutional category
- ☐ Carnegie Classification 2010: Basic
- ☐ Degree of urbanization (Locale) !
- ☐ Institution size category
- ☐ Reporting method (academic/hybrid/program)
- ☐ Has full-time first-time undergraduates
- ☐ All programs offered completely via distance education

Check all | Uncheck all Close

- ☐ Administrative Unit
- ☐ Public, 4-year or above
- ☐ Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above
- ☒ Private for-profit, 4-year or above
- ☐ Public, 2-year
- ☐ Private not-for-profit, 2-year
- ☐ Private for-profit, 2-year
- ☐ Public, less-than 2-year
- ☐ Private not-for-profit, less-than 2-year
- ☐ Private for-profit, less-than 2-year

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Using NCES-defined Automatic Groups

- Creates a group of peer institutions for a selected comparison institution
- Uses pre-defined criteria:
 - Institutional control and level
 - Degree-granting status
 - Title IV status
 - Carnegie classification
 - Geographic region

The screenshot shows the '1. Select Institutions' interface. At the top, it says 'My Comparison Institution - Virginia Commonwealth University' with 'CHANGE' and 'REMOVE' buttons. Below this, it asks 'How would you like to select institutions to include in your data file/report?' with four options: 'By Names or UnitIDs', 'By Groups', 'By Variables', and 'By Uploading a File'. The 'By Groups' option is selected, and a sub-menu is open showing 'EZ Group', 'Automatic Group', and 'Saved Group'. The 'Automatic Group' option is highlighted with a red arrow. Below the sub-menu, there is a text box with instructions: 'Enter either an institution name or UnitID (or a comma separated list of UnitIDs) in the text box below. As you begin typing, a list of matching institutions will appear. You can select a single institution by clicking on it from the list, or, if you want all institutions on the list, click "Select".'

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Using Institutionally-defined Saved Groups

- Creates a group of peer institutions for selected comparison institution
- Option not available for all institutions

The screenshot shows the '1. Select Institutions' interface. At the top, it says 'My Comparison Institution - Virginia Commonwealth University' with 'CHANGE' and 'REMOVE' buttons. Below this, it asks 'How would you like to select institutions to include in your data file/report?' with four options: 'By Names or UnitIDs', 'By Groups', 'By Variables', and 'By Uploading a File'. The 'By Groups' option is selected, and a sub-menu is open showing 'EZ Group', 'Automatic Group', and 'Saved Group'. The 'Saved Group' option is highlighted with a red arrow. Below the sub-menu, there is a text box with instructions: 'Enter either an institution name or UnitID (or a comma separated list of UnitIDs) in the text box below. As you begin typing, a list of matching institutions will appear. You can select a single institution by clicking on it from the list, or, if you want all institutions on the list, click "Select".'

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Using Variables to Create an Institution Group

- Select up to 20 variables as criteria for creating an institution group

1. Select Institutions

My Comparison Institution - None Selected [i](#) [ADD](#)

Select Institutions - You have selected 1 institution(s) [VIEW/MODIFY](#)

How would you like to select institutions to include in your data file/report?

[i By Names or UnitIDs](#) [i By Groups](#) [i By Variables](#) [i By Uploading a File](#)

[i Browse/Search Variables](#) [i Choose from My Variables](#) [i Create Derived Variables](#) [i Upload Variables](#)

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Using Variables to Create an Institution Group (Continued)

- Select up to 20 criteria variables to create institution group:
 - Browse/Search Variables
 - Browse list of variables and search for variables by name or keyword
 - Choose from My Variables
 - Choose from existing variables previously selected or uploaded
 - Create Derived Variables
 - Derive custom variables from existing variables using addition, subtraction, or division
 - Upload Variables
 - Previously saved list of variables
 - Must be a Power User

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Structure of IPEDS Data Files

- Single-record files:
 - Contain one row of data for each institution
 - Example: Data downloaded using Compare Institutions
- Multiple-record files:
 - Contain several rows of data for each institution
 - Example: Data by race/ethnicity and gender in the Fall Enrollment and Completions components of downloaded survey or custom data files

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Sample Multiple Record File

| | A | B | C | D | E |
|----|--------|-------------------------------------|---|---|---------------------|
| 1 | unitid | institution name | CipTitle | C2013_A.Award Level code | C2013_A.Grand total |
| 2 | 100663 | University of Alabama at Birmingham | Speech Communication and Rhetoric | Bachelor's degree | 101 |
| 3 | 100663 | University of Alabama at Birmingham | Speech Communication and Rhetoric | Master's degree | 9 |
| 4 | 100663 | University of Alabama at Birmingham | Computer and Information Sciences, General | Bachelor's degree | 22 |
| 5 | 100663 | University of Alabama at Birmingham | Computer and Information Sciences, General | Master's degree | 16 |
| 6 | 100663 | University of Alabama at Birmingham | Computer and Information Sciences, General | Doctor's degree - research/scholarship | 3 |
| 7 | 100663 | University of Alabama at Birmingham | Computer and Information Systems Security/Information Assurance | Master's degree | 2 |
| 8 | 100663 | University of Alabama at Birmingham | Education, General | Post-master's certificate | 9 |
| 9 | 100663 | University of Alabama at Birmingham | Educational Leadership and Administration, General | Master's degree | 40 |
| 10 | 100663 | University of Alabama at Birmingham | Educational Leadership and Administration, General | Post-master's certificate | 38 |
| 11 | 100663 | University of Alabama at Birmingham | Educational Leadership and Administration, General | Doctor's degree - research/scholarship | 7 |
| 12 | 100663 | University of Alabama at Birmingham | Educational Leadership and Administration, General | Doctor's degree - professional practice | 4 |
| 13 | 100663 | University of Alabama at Birmingham | Special Education and Teaching, General | Bachelor's degree | 6 |
| 14 | 100663 | University of Alabama at Birmingham | Special Education and Teaching, General | Master's degree | 39 |
| 15 | 100663 | University of Alabama at Birmingham | Counselor Education/School Counseling and Guidance Services | Master's degree | 33 |

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Choosing Variables

Steps for choosing variables:

1. Select Year
2. Select Qualifying Variable(s)
(Only applicable for some variables)
3. Select from the list of variables

The screenshot shows the IPEDS Data Selection interface. At the top, there are three tabs: "Continuous variable", "Alpha/String variable", and "Categorical variable". Below the tabs is a search bar labeled "Search for variable(s)" with a "Search" button. To the right of the search bar is a "Continue" button. Below the search bar is a list of variables, each preceded by a checkbox. The variables listed are: Frequently used/Derived variables, Institutional Characteristics, Admissions and Test Scores, Student Charges, Fall Enrollment, 12-Month Enrollment, Completions, Retention rates, Entering Class and Student to faculty ratio, Graduation Rates, Student Financial Aid and Net Price, Finance, Human Resources, and Academic Libraries.

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Choosing Variables (Continued)

The screenshot shows the IPEDS Data Selection interface for the "Fall Enrollment" variable. It displays a "Level of student" section with a search bar and a "Save" button. Below the search bar is a list of variables, each preceded by a checkbox. The variables listed are: All students total, Undergraduate total, Degree/certificate-seeking total, First time, Other degree/certificate-seeking, Transfer-ins, Continuing, Non-degree/certificate-seeking, Graduate and first-professional, Graduate (applicable through fall 2008), and First-professional (applicable through fall 2008).

The screenshot shows the IPEDS Data Selection interface for the "Level of student" variable. It displays a "Level of student" section with a search bar and a "Save" button. Below the search bar is a list of variables, each preceded by a checkbox. The variables listed are: All students total, Undergraduate total, Degree/certificate-seeking total, First time, Other degree/certificate-seeking, Transfer-ins, Continuing, Non-degree/certificate-seeking, Graduate and first-professional, Graduate (applicable through fall 2008), and First-professional (applicable through fall 2008).

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Considerations for Choosing Variables

- Compare Institutions option
 - Limit of 250 variables
 - Need to be selective
- Analyzing Completions data
 - Three sets of Qualifying Variables under Step 2

Completions

☒ Awards/degrees conferred by program (2010 CIP classification), award level, race/ethnicity, and gender - includes new race/ethnicity and award level categories

☒ Gender - 2009-10 to current year

Step 1: Select Year(s)

☐ 2012-13 ☐ 2011-12 ☐ 2010-11 ☐ 2009-10

Step 2: Select Qualifying Variable(s)

First or Second Major

CIP Code - 2010 Classification

Award Level code

- Best to use the Download Survey Data Files option instead of Compare institutions option

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IPEDS Use the Data Help Desk

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(866) 558-0658

ipedstools@rti.org

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Module Summary

- Described the options for using IPEDS data
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 - Generating reports
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- Described processes for accessing IPEDS data
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Module Resources

- [IPEDS Website](#)
- [Use IPEDS Data](#)
- [IPEDS Data Manual](#)
- [IPEDS Use the Data Help Desk](#): (866) 558-0658, ipedstools@rti.org